WAID • AUGUSTYN • KITSON

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DC

NO. 1

JAN '98

50 CENTS

JLA YEAR ONE

DAILY PLANET

METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPER

WORLD'S GREATEST HE

THE BALD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

AVES TOWN

TO THE RESCUE

(UPI) GOTHAM--Defeating a band of masked vigilantes, fiv
crimefighters today rescued thirty innocent citizens
tion. Arriving at Fifth Avenue's MetroNet
by eyewitnesses as Flash, Green
the Martian Manhun
minal group

dccomics.com

KLIK

SIGHTED THE FLASH

AQUAMAN SPOTTED

GREEN LANTERN

MANHUNTER FROM MARS SEEN

REPORTED BLACK CANARY IN

...NEWSCOPTER VIEWED GREEN LANTERN HIGH ABOVE THE SKIES OF COAST CITY, BATTLING A MONSTROUS FLYING CREATURE.

LANTERN--WHOSE RING, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, CAN GENERATE ANY FORM OR SHAPE THE HERO WILLS IT TO--TOOK TO THE SKIES--

GREEN LANTERN COAST CITY

...WITNESSES SAW BLACK CANARY IN COMBAT WITH A GLASS BEING. THOUGH IT RADIATED BEAMS WHICH REDUCED OTHERS NEARBY TO GLASS--

--IN AN AERIAL DUEL WITH THE WINGED

--THE BRAND-NEW COSTUMED AVENGER BLACK CANARY NEVERTHELESS SHATTERED HER ATTACKER WITH A SONIC SCREAM--

GREEN LANTERN THEN SWITCHED TO OFFENSE--

Black Canary Star City

--SWOOPING DOWN AND

--WHICH FRACTURED HER FOE'S

...COAST GUARD TOOK THIS FOOTAGE OF THE SEAFARING EXPLORER THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE DUBBED "AQUAMAN"--

--AS HE YESTERDAY VANQUISHED A MERCURIAL CREATURE, ORIGIN UNKNOWN, APPARENTLY BENT ON MAKING OVER ALL SEA CREATURES INTO HIS LIKENESS.

AQUAMAN, WHOM SOURCES CLAIM CAN COMMAND THE ACTIONS OF ALL SEA DENIZENS, CREATED A WHIRLPOOL AROUND

CANARY FIRST OUTING

GREEN LANTERN, A NEWCOMER

...SCARLET SPEEDSTER WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE FLASH USED HIS LIGHTNING VELOCITY TO EXTINGUISH THE FLAMING BEAST--

LANTERN, A ALIRONNIAN.

Flash — Keystone C

LATER LEARNED

--SUSPECTED TO BE SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO SIMILAR GLASS AND MERCURY BEINGS, AND PERHAPS EVEN TO A BIRD CREATURE FOUGHT BY THE NEW CRIMEFIGHTER CALLED GREEN LANTERN...

NORAD SUSPECTS A LINK BETWEEN THE ALIENS

TOLD AQUAMAN OF A SIMILAR CREATURE IN THE EVERGLADES

CANARY TOOK OFF FOR FLORIDA WHEN SHE HEARD OF

GREEN LANTERN

FASTEST MAN ALIVE.

HEADED FOR

DEFINITE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE MENACES.

...RUMORS FOR YEARS OF A MANHUNTER FROM MARS IN MIDDLETON, COLORADO... BUT THOSE RUMORS ARE NOW FACT.

DOOMED SS THE VERY RFACE OF HE WATER

YESTERDAY MORNING, THE STRANGE ALIEN DEFENDED THE CITIZENS OF MIDDLETON FROM AN EVEN GREATER THREAT AS A STONE BEHEMOTH BEGAN TRANSFORMING ORDINARY CITIZENS INTO A GRANITE ARMADA UNDER HIS RULE.

CREATED A JADE HAMMER

AQUAM FOUGA

SMASHING THE STONE GIANT, THE ENIGMATIC MARTIAN CHAMPION TOOK TO THE SKIES OVER FLORIDA--

RIPPED INTO THE BEAST TH SUPER-FAST HANDS

LITTLE IF ANYTHING KNOWN ABOUT THE MA

BLACK CANARY REFUSED TO QUIT

GREEN LANTERN SEEMED FEARLESS IN

...IN THE EVERGLADES, WHERE ALL FIVE MYSTERY MEN ARRIVED IN TIME TO VANQUISH THE LAST AND MOST LETHAL OF THE INVADERS, A WOOD CREATURE--

ITERALLY HIPPED WAY AT THE

SH MED TO RATE OUGH HE

MARTIAI SEEMEI SUPER-STRONG

THWART A FULL-SCALE A INVASIO

BEL TO B ALIE INVAS

THUS PREVENTED AN INVASION

INVASION BY ALIEN BEINGS

FLASH

AQUAMAN

GREEN

BLACK

DESTROYED ALIENS

SAVED LIVES

FOUR ALIENS DESTROYED BUT TWO

TWO UNACCOUNTED FOR

GREEN LANTERN

MARTIAN'S WHEREABOUTS

FLASH

AQUAMAN

CANARY

TOMORROW'S DEFENDERS?

BIRD ALIEN AND FIRE ALIEN REPORTEDLY

REPORTEDLY HIDDEN BY HEROES PENDING

PENDING DISPOSAL

WONDER WHAT HEROES WILL DO WITH REMAINING ALIENS

REPORTED SEEING SUPERMAN WITH A SEVENTH

ALL NEW TO THE JOB, BUT

CANAR

CITY PROUD OF THEIR CANARY

LANTERN

CLICK

WELL.

TIME TO GET THIS INVESTIGATION UNDER WAY...

THE EMERALD GLADIATOR.

THE MANHUNTER FROM MARS.

THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE.

THE BLONDE BOMBSHELL.

KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS.

THEY WERE YOUNG... THEY WERE NEW... AND STILL, THEY FOREVER SET THE STANDARD FOR ALL WHO WOULD FOLLOW.

TEN YEARS AGO, FIVE POWERFUL HEROES CAME TOGETHER...

...FOR A WORLD THAT NEEDED ONE UNBEATABLE TEAM.

JUST IMAGINE.

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Year One

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POLICE HEADQUARTERS
CENTRAL CITY POLICE DEPT.
314

...WORLD WONDERING WHAT THE HEROES' NEXT MOVE WILL BE...

BARRY! YOU HEAR 'BOUT THESE GOOD GUYS PUTTING DOWN AN ALIEN TREE? WHAT D'YA RECKON THEY'LL DO NEXT?

...

I HAVE NO IDEA.

YOU'RE LATE.

SINCE WHEN? WHEN HAS BARRY ALLEN EVER BEEN ON TIME?

RIGHT. IRIS CALL?

YES, AND SHE SAID YOU KEEP HER WAITING AT LUNCH, I'D BETTER BE PREPARED TO DO AN AUTOPSY. SAYS HER MAN'S ALWAYS TARDY WITH A CAPITAL--

I'M...GETTING BETTER ABOUT THAT, JACK.

Barry Allen
CCPD SCIENTIFIC DETECTION BUREAU

TELL ME, WHAT LABORIOUS AND TEDIOUS TASK IS FIRST ON THE LAB SHEET THIS MORNING...?

THE RICOTTA CASE. HOPING TO MATCH THE MURDER BULLET.

CHIEF WANTS US TO FIND OUT IF IT CAME FROM THIS HOMEBOY'S CONFISCATED .45...

ALLEN BARRY

... BY FIRING ANOTHER BULLET OUT OF IT TO SEE IF THE MARKINGS MATCH...

=SIGH=

HOW ELECTRIFYING.

DONE THIS A MILLION TIMES.

FIRE WHEN READY.

BLAM!

YEP.

MATCH.

RIFLINGS CORRESPOND TO THE MURDER SLUG. NEXT...?

THAT WAS FAST.

HAR, HAR. YOU DON'T MIND IF I CHECK IT...?

!

YOU'RE... RIGHT...? HOW...?

IT'S A GIFT.

BUT...

ON TO THE NEXT ITEM. DON'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME!

BARRY...?

WHAT'S EATING YOU? WE'RE PARTNERS, MAN. TALK TO ME.

IT'S...IT'S NOTHING, JACK. I JUST HAVE A... DECISION TO MAKE.

I GOT TOGETHER WITH SOME... PEOPLE YESTERDAY. WE WERE... WORKING ON SOMETHING, BUT WE LEFT IT A LITTLE... UNFINISHED.

I'M NOT SURE WHETHER I FEEL LIKE LINKING UP WITH THEM TO SETTLE BUSINESS. I'M NOT USED TO BEING A TEAM PLAYER, YOU KNOW?

I DO INDEED. YOU ARE A SLAVE TO THE LAB... WHICH IS WHY I LOVE YA, MAN.

GIVES ME A LOT OF COFFEE BREAKS... LIKE NOW.

DO WHAT YOU LIKE, MY FRIEND, BUT DON'T OVERCOMMIT. YOU'RE ONLY HUMAN, RIGHT?

YEAH? MAYBE THAT'S REALLY WHAT'S WEIGHING ON ME.

MAYBE I'M WORRIED--

MEET IRIS FOR LUNCH!

THAT...

I'M

NO

LONGER

HUMAN

AFTER...

ALL!

THIS NEWFOUND SUPER-SPEED... IT CAME FROM A FREAK ACCIDENT.

MAYBE THAT'S HOW THE OTHERS GOT THEIR POWERS, YOU THINK? I'D LIKE TO KNOW. AT THE VERY LEAST, WE COULD ALL SWAP SOME INFORMATION.

KEEP CONTRO

SEEMS THIS COSTUME BUSINESS IS PRETTY NEW TO EACH OF US. COULDN'T HURT TO TALK TO EACH--

WHAT'S THE MATTER, JACK? COFFEE MACHINE EAT YOUR QUARTER AGAIN?

OH! CAPTAIN PAULSON, SIR! HELLO!

ALLEN. I SEE YOUR DESK IS STILL CLEAN. DON'T WE GIVE YOU ENOUGH TO DO AROUND HERE?

NEVER MIND. I WANT YOU TO MEET A NEW DETECTIVE ON THE FORCE. NAME'S PARIS JACKSON.

HE'LL BE WORKING WITH YOU CLOSELY.

A PLEASURE, MR. ALLEN. I PLAN TO LEARN A LOT FROM YOU...

SO THE ONE IN FISHNETS... YOU SEE HER?

OH, MY GOD. OH, MY GOOD GOD. THOSE LEGS...!

PDQ Deliveries

HERMIE, SHE'D BE BEGGIN' TO WRAP 'EM AROUND MY...

SIGN HERE, PLEASE.

GLADLY.

PDQ

... MY MOTORCYCLE... Y'GOT ME?

I'M WITCHA, LOU.

TO D. HANCE FLORISTS

SHE'S A CANARY RIGHT?

BET I COULD MAKE HER SING.

WAIT! THESE GO IN THE BACK--!

MANALIVE, I'D DO ANYTHING FOR A CHICK IN LEATHER, Y'KNOW? N.E. THANG.

A LITTLE HELP HERE...?

AND THAT BODY...

DON'T GET ME STARTED...!

MEN. HMPH. SOME OF THEM ARE HARDLY WORTH THE TROUBLE.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE HANGING OUT WITH FLASH AND THE OTHERS? YOU PLANNING ON FORMING A GROUP?

OH, I DON'T KNOW, MOM. WE DID WELL ON ONE CASE, BUT THAT'S NO GUARANTEE WE CAN BE A TEAM.

I SAW YOU AGAINST THAT GLASS... THING, BY THE WAY. WHEN I WAS BLACK CANARY, THE JUSTICE SOCIETY AND I ONCE FOUGHT--

-- THE CRYSTAL COUNT. I KNOW.

TELL ME AGAIN.

OH! WOULDN'T THIS LOOK NICER HERE?

I THOUGHT THIS WAS MY STORE NOW...?

WHAT, DEAR?

NOTHING, MOM...

SPEAKING OF THE JSA, HOW ARE UNCLE TED AND UNCLE ALAN? THEY TAUGHT ME *SO MUCH.*

HAPPILY RETIRED. SOME WE DON'T HEAR AS MUCH FROM AS OTHERS.

AND DON'T FORGET TO SEND UNCLE WESLEY A *BIRTHDAY CARD.*

SHOULDN'T THIS BE BY THE *WINDOW?*

WHATEVER.

SO HOW'S *BUSINESS?*

I'M KEEPING IT UP JUST *FINE,* MOM.

I *LIKE* ENCOURAGING THINGS TO *GROW.*

GETS A LITTLE *DULL* AND *DREARY* SOMETIMES, BUT--

ROSES!

I NEED *ROSES--* AND *FAST!*

I...

SURE. MIND TELLING ME WHAT'S THE *RUSH?*

LOVE TO. I WAS STANDING OUTSIDE YOUR STORE...MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS, AND I... WELL...

...I SUDDENLY SAW THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN I'VE SEEN IN *MONTHS.*

OH, *REALLY?*

THE ROMANCE OF *HAPPENSTANCE.* LOVE AT *FIRST SIGHT.* DO YOU *BELIEVE* IN IT?

I... COULD BE CONVINCED. THESE GOOD?

IF YOU LIKE THEM.

THAT I *DO.* HERE'S A *SIGNATURE CARD,* BUT IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU *NEED--*

IT'S *TRUE*. BLONDES REALLY *DO* HAVE MORE FUN. BUT WE KNOW *THAT*, DON'T WE?

YEAH. YEAH, WE DO.

MAN, WHERE'S THAT WIG WHEN YOU NEED IT?

DON'T WORRY, DEAR. MR. RIGHT *WILL* COME ALONG...

MOMMMMM! FOR THE *LAST TIME*, I'M *HARDLY* WAITING FOR A *MAN* TO COMPLETE MY LIFE--

LADIES? SAW SOME FELLA BOLT IN LIKE *A CRAZY MAN*. EVERYTHING *OKAY* IN HERE?

EVERYTHING'S *FINE*, OFFICER. *NEW* ON THE BEAT, ARE YOU? HAVE YOU MET MY DAUGHTER *DINAH*? DINAH, MEET OFFICER--

SHERMAN.

=SIGH= CHARMED.

WELL, DON'T WORRY ABOUT TROUBLE IN *THIS* NEIGHBORHOOD. I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR LITTLE GIRL. I PROMISE.

THANK YOU *SO MUCH*.

AND WHAT WAS *THAT* ABOUT?

YOU CAN'T BE TOO *CAREFUL* THESE DAYS. TIMES HAVE *CHANGED*.

SO HAS *BLACK CANARY*, MOM. I'VE GOT SONIC POWERS *YOU* NEVER *DID*. I'M PLENTY CAPABLE ON MY *OWN*. GOT IT?

IN A *MOMENT*, DEAR. JUST LET ME PUT THIS *DOWN*...

...WHICH... *GHAAAAH!*... IS *ANOTHER* THING!

YES, I'M ONLY NINETEEN, BUT I'M PERFECTLY IN CONTROL OF MY LIFE...

...WHICH, I MIGHT ADD, IS NOT YOUR LIFE! NOR IS THIS YOUR STORE ANYMORE...

...SO STOP MOVING STUFF AROUND!

DEAR, I ONLY MEANT TO HELP...

I SAID, PUT--

THAT--

--DOWN!

KSSH

KSSH

KSSH

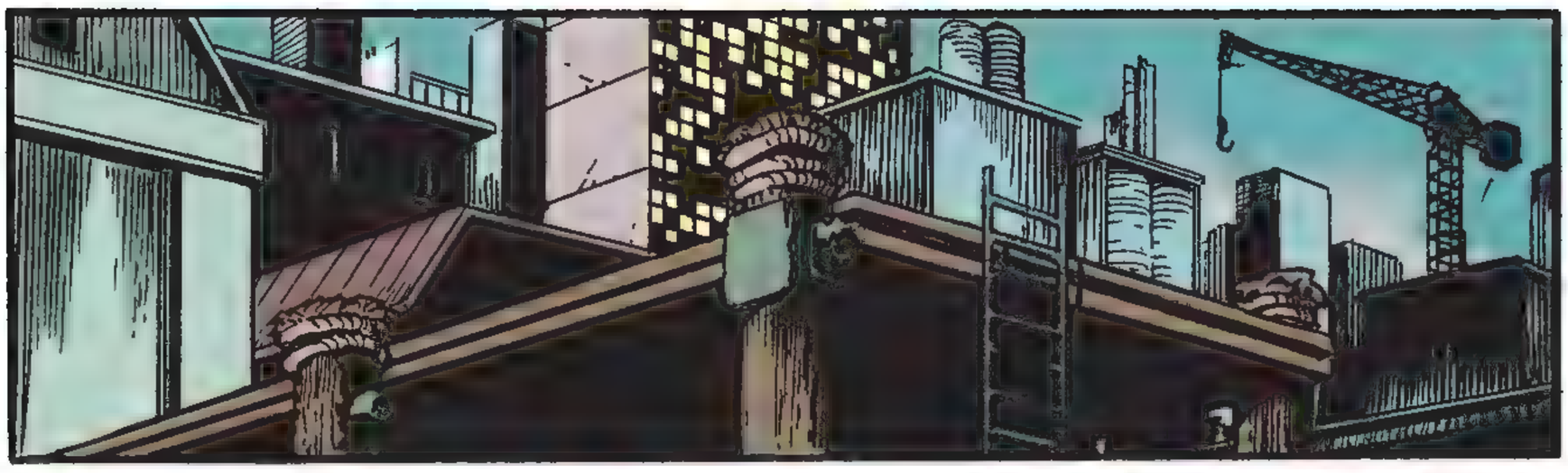
KSSH

CHSSH

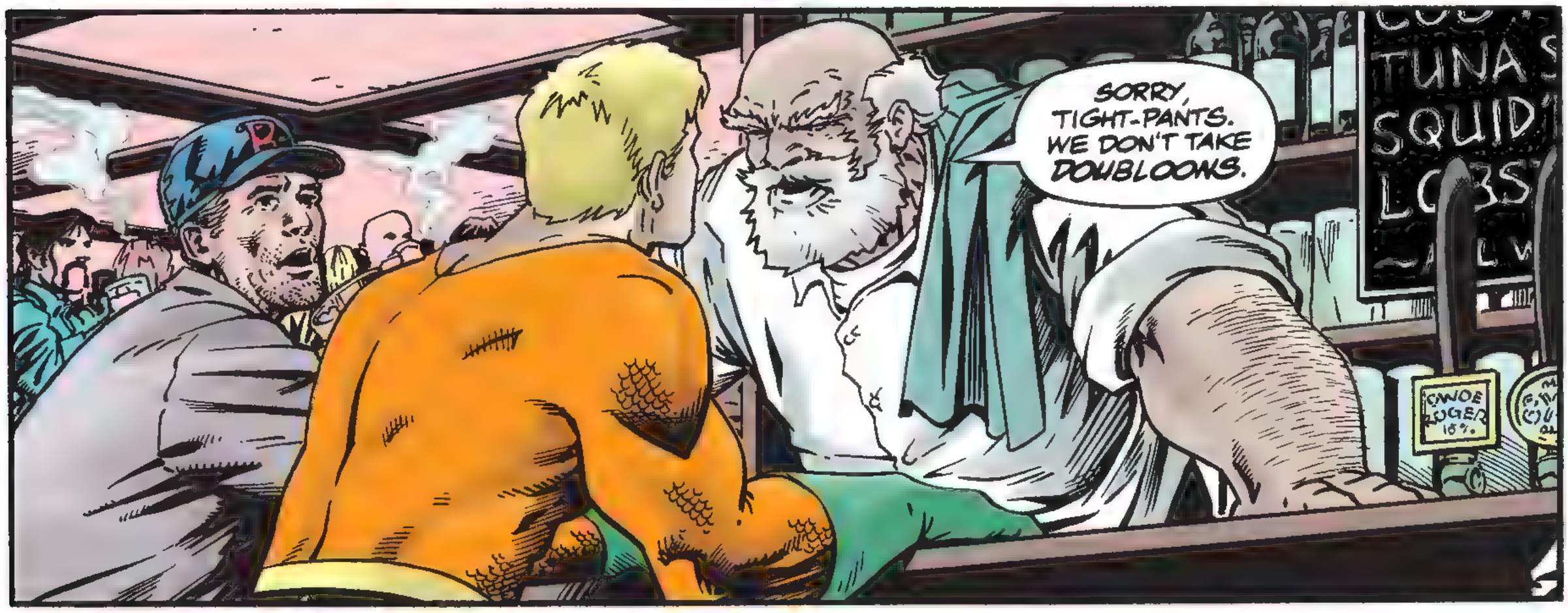
{

WE HAVE TO CLEAN THIS UP. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO BE AROUND PEOPLE WHO DON'T MAKE ME CRAZY.

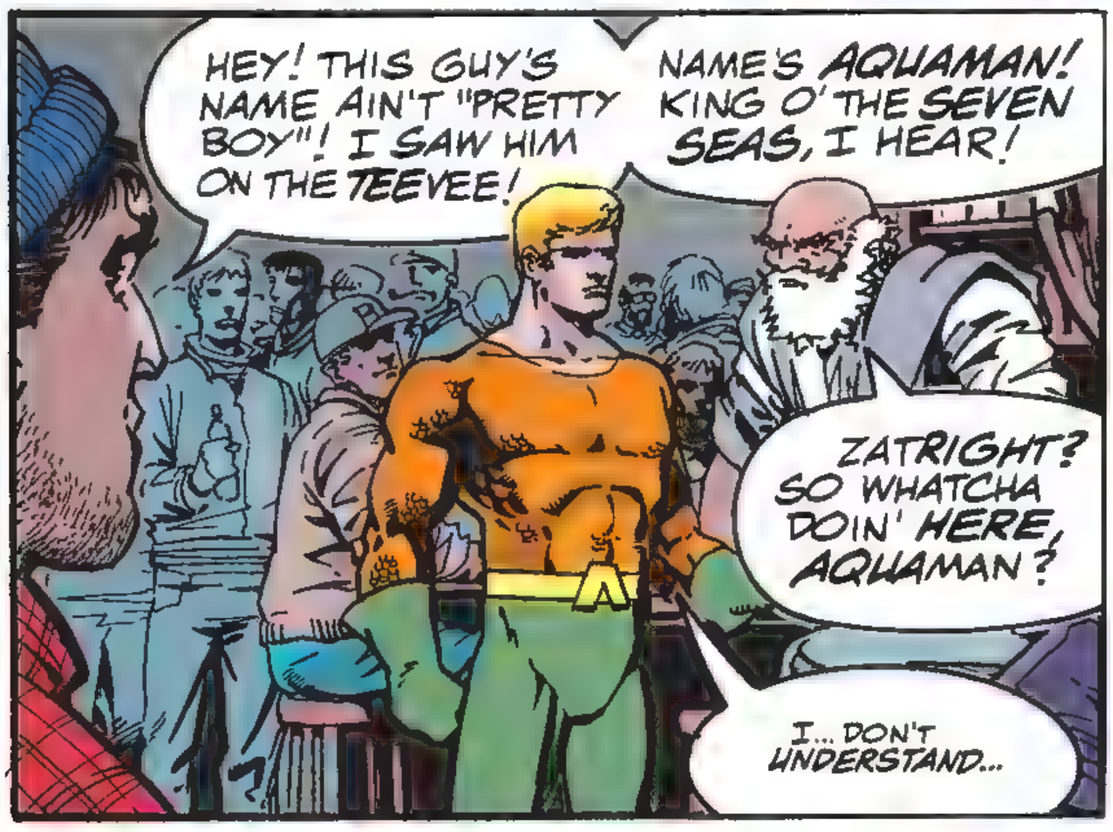


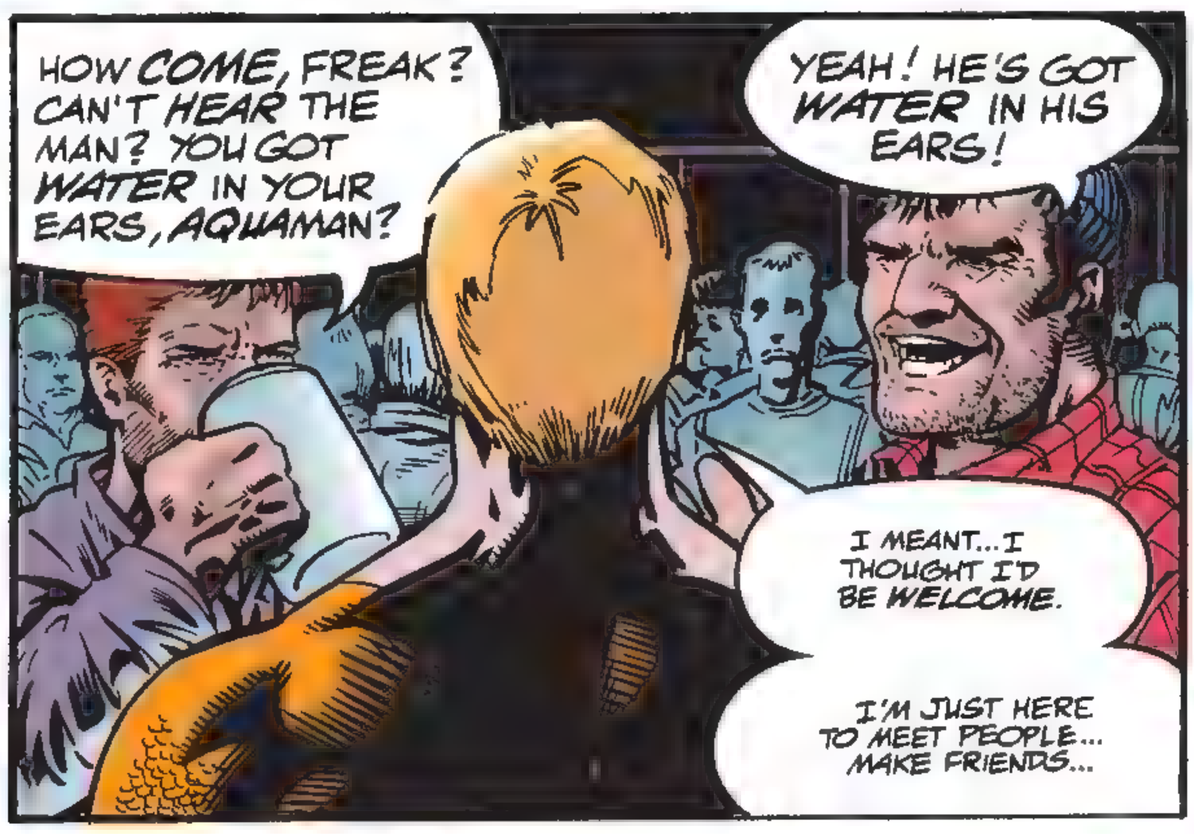
BEER
SALOON BAR
WHAT THE--?

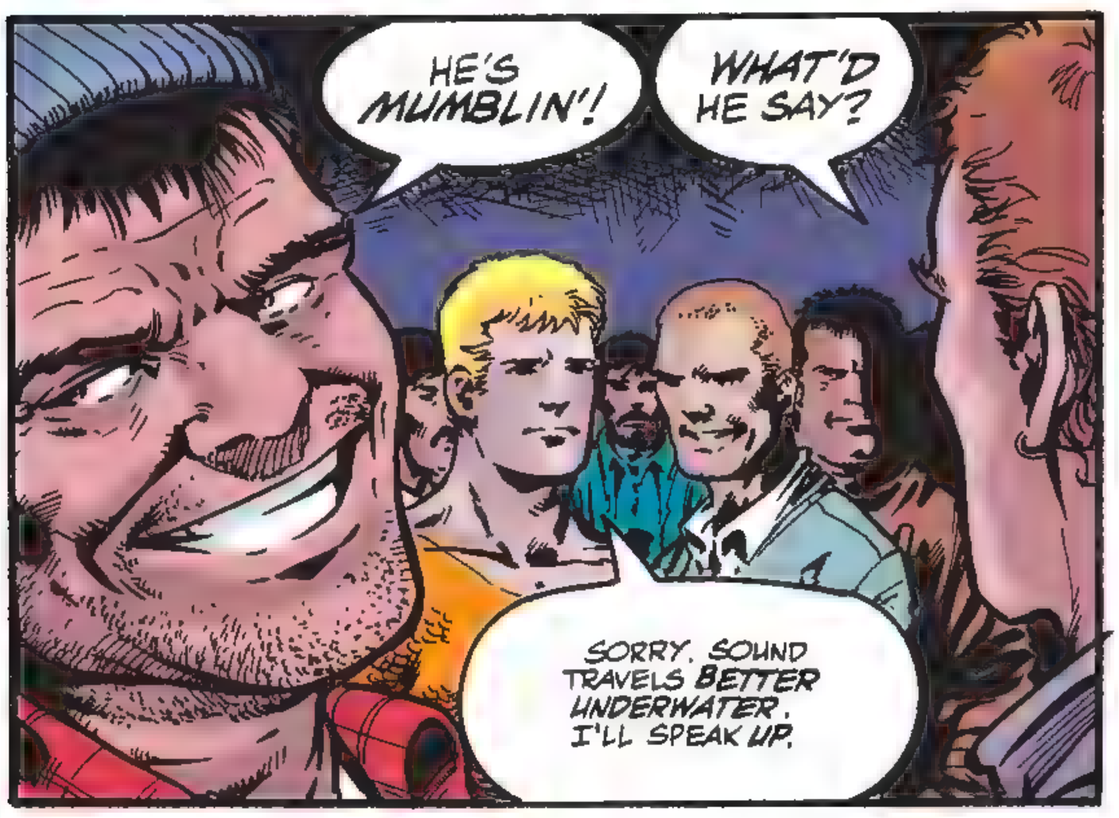

SORRY, TIGHT-PANTS. WE DON'T TAKE DOUBLOONS.
TUNA
SQUID
LOBS
CWOE LOGER 16¢

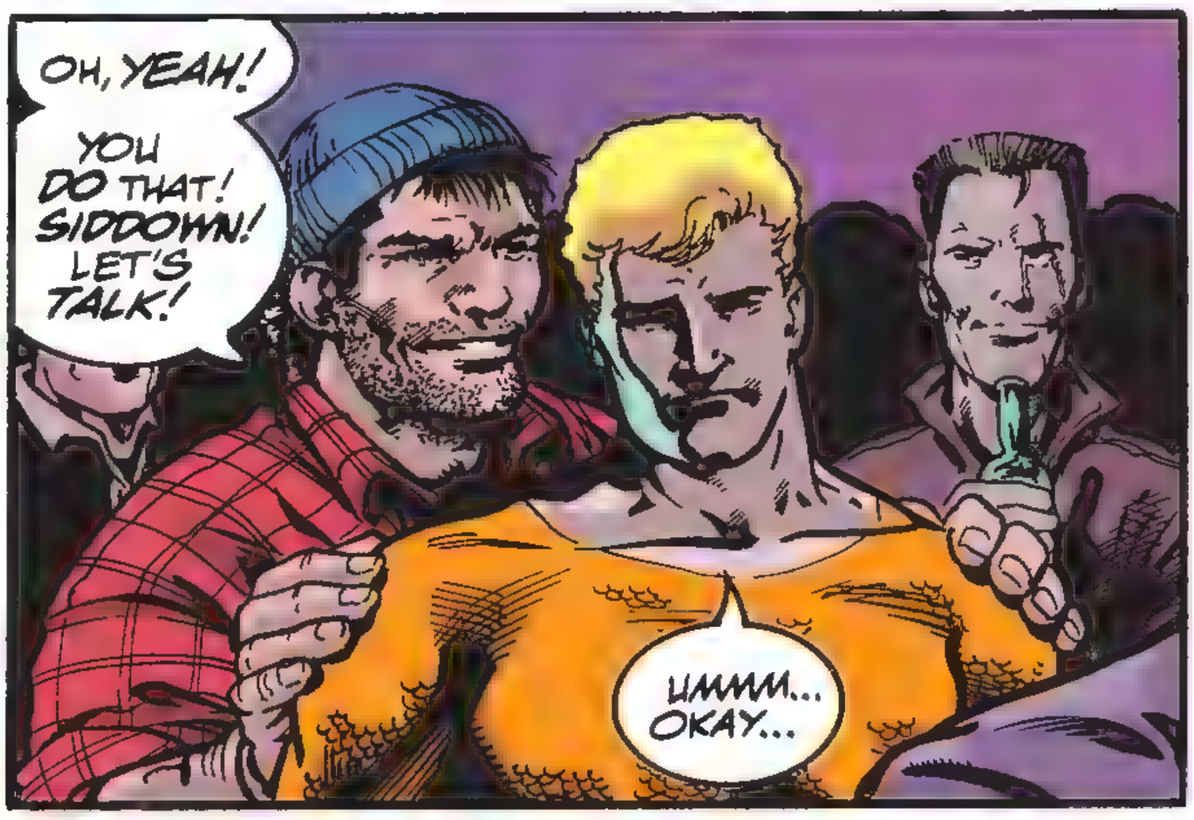
:GASP:
WHAT? WHAT NOW?

YOU SERVE FISH?
WE SERVE ANYBODY, PRETTY BOY. YOU DRINKIN' OR YAKKIN'?
AND TALK ENGLISH. CAN'T HARDLY MAKE OUT THAT WEIRD ACCENT. WHERE YOU FROM, ANYWAYS?
TUNA STEAKS
SQUID 'N' VEG
LOBSTER PO
ALL WITH


HEY! THIS GUY'S NAME AIN'T "PRETTY BOY"! I SAW HIM ON THE TEEVEE!
NAME'S AQUAMAN! KING O' THE SEVEN SEAS, I HEAR!
ZATRIGHT? SO WHATCHA DOIN' HERE, AQUAMAN?
I... DON'T UNDERSTAND...


HOW COME, FREAK? CAN'T HEAR THE MAN? YOU GOT WATER IN YOUR EARS, AQUAMAN?
YEAH! HE'S GOT WATER IN HIS EARS!
I MEANT... I THOUGHT I'D BE WELCOME.
I'M JUST HERE TO MEET PEOPLE... MAKE FRIENDS...


HE'S MUMBLIN'!
WHAT'D HE SAY?
SORRY. SOUND TRAVELS BETTER UNDERWATER. I'LL SPEAK UP.


OH, YEAH! YOU DO THAT! SIDDOWN! LET'S TALK!
UMMM... OKAY...

SO TELL US ALL ABOUT LIFE UNDER THE SEA, AQUAMAN. YOU GETTIN' ANY MERMAID ACTION DOWN THERE?
ACTION"
NAH. BETTER YET...TELL US WHERE YOU GOT THAT PRETTY SHIRT, OR MEBBE HOW LONG Y'CAN HOLD YOUR BREATH...

...UNDER WATER!
HAW! HAW!
SPLOOSH

FREAK.

HEY, CHOLLIE! FIRE UP THE GRILL! LOOKS LIKE I CAUGHT ME A WHOPPER HERE!

KRAKKKK

'COURSE, I MIGHT HAFTA THROW 'IM--

--BACK--?

KRAAKKKK

YEEEOWW!

HNNNFF!

FWAASH

WHAT PROBLEM DO YOU HAVE?

HERE I WAS...JUST TRYING TO FIT IN FOR A CHANGE AMONG YOU... YOU'LL EXCUSE THE EXPRESSION...

...SURFACEDWELLERS...

... AND ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS REMIND ME WHY I DON'T TRUST A ONE OF YOU!

WHAT'D HE SAY?
DUNNO. ACCENT. DON'T MATTER. YOU GONNA TAKE THAT?
NO WAY! YOU WANT TROUBLE, FISHMAN, YOU CAME TO THE RIGHT--
--PLACE?
DIDN'T SOUND TO ME LIKE HE WANTED TROUBLE AT ALL, FRIEND.
I'M COAST GUARD, LOSER.
WHAT? YOU GONNA ARREST ME?
NOPE. I'M GONNA ASK YOU TO APOLOGIZE TO THIS MAN FOR MAKING FUN OF HIM.
BITE MY--
NOW.
OW! OW! OKAY!
I'M SORRY! GEEZ, I'M SORRY!
MUCH BETTER.
THANKS.
DON'T MENTION IT. (A) I WAS JUST TRYING TO KEEP WOOL HAT HERE FROM BEING PULPED, AND (B) I OVERHEARD YOU...
...AND FIGURED ON PROVING THAT NOT ALL HUMANS ARE TO BE MISTRUSTED. BUY YOU A BREW?
"BREW"?
REFRESHMENT.
AND WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?
NADA. NOTHING. FRIENDSHIP. NAME'S PEREZ.
SO...YOU HAVE ANY OTHER LAND PALS?
YOU'VE SEEN THEM ON THAT NEWS BOX THING.
TELEVISION.
RIGHT. I PROMISED TO MEET WITH THEM LATER TODAY. MAYBE I'LL END UP FRIENDS WITH THEM, MAYBE I WON'T.
BUT THE FIRST SIGN THEY SHOW OF BEING LIKE THESE PRIMATES, I'M SWEARING OFF THE LAND FOR GOOD...

HAL, THIS IS PIE! YOU'RE IN TROUBLE! ABORT THE MISSION!

AND SACRIFICE THE X-90? PLEASE. THIS RIG COST A BUNDLE! I'M BRINGING IT BACK!

STOP WORRYING. JUST TELL THEM TO KEEP PUMPING THE FOAM!

LET IT GO, "FEARLESS"! KNOCK OFF THE HOT-DOGGING AND BAIL ALREADY! BESIDES, IT AIN'T YOUR MONEY, IT'S CAROL'S, AND...

...

YES?

JORDAN

OH, MY GOD. OH, MY GOD.

DON'T, DON'T DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE DOING THIS JUST TO SUCK UP TO THE BOSS!

NOPE. OKAY... MAYBE. THINK I'LL GET A DATE OUT OF IT?

FOR SAVING A THIRTY MILLION DOLLAR PLANE? PROBABLY. IF YOU LIVE THROUGH IT!

KEEP FOAMING THE RUNWAY! HE'S COMIN' IN!

FERRIS

DOES HE KNOW THERE'S A *FUEL TRUCK* PARKED ON THE RUNWAY?

DON'T *ENCOURAGE* HIM.

SKREEEEEEE

ENOSH

BY THE WAY, TELL HIM WE'RE MAKING *HIM* PAY FOR THE *FOAM*.

AGAIN.

HAL? HAL, COME IN!

HAL?

AWRIGHT!

I'M ANOTHER YEAR CLOSER TO A *STROKE*... BUT AWRIGHT!

H'LO, BOYS.

H'LO, HAL.

KEEP FOAMING!

I...I...

YOU KNOW, I'M JUST YOUR *MECHANIC*. I CAN'T *TELL* YOU WHAT TO DO. BUT IF I *COULD* ORDER YOU AROUND, HAL...

...I'D TELL YOU TO WEAR YOUR *FRIGGIN' MAGIC RING* WHEN YOU FLY!

CAN'T DO IT, PIE. YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS.

IT AUTOMATICALLY PROTECTS ME FROM *HARM*. I'LL WEAR IT IF GREEN LANTERN'S FIGHTING, SAY, THE *INVISIBLE DESTROYER*...

...BUT ON THE *JOB*; IT TAKES AWAY HAL JORDAN'S *EDGE*.

HOW RELIABLE ARE THE INSTINCTS OF A TEST PILOT WHO CARRIES A BIG GREEN *AIRBAG* AROUND WITH HIM?

FINE. IF YOU GET IN *REAL* TROUBLE, MAYBE YOUR *NEW COSTUMED* PALS CAN BAIL YOU OUT.

THEY'RE NOT MY "PALS," PIE. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF--

CAN IT! HERE COMES CAROL!

JORDAN

LOOK AT YOU. WHAT DO YOU WANT?

DINNER. LET FERRIS AIRCRAFT RUN ITSELF FOR A NIGHT.

PLAY THE BLONDE RIGHT AND MAY BE.

DONE. WHO IS SHE?

AN FAA INVESTIGATOR. SHE WAS ON A ROUTINE VISIT... BUT NOW SHE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT WENT WRONG WITH THE X-90.

EASY. WE SENT IT UP TOO SOON.

YOUR OPINION.

MY HONEST OPINION.

FUDGE IT. NO ONE'S ASKING YOU TO LIE... BUT IF YOU REALLY WANT DINNER, YOU MIGHT WANT TO DO A LITTLE SOFT-SELLING...

...IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.

UMMM...

HI. HAL JORDAN.

LORA DENTON. PLEASED. SO... CARE TO FILL THE GOVERNMENT IN ON WHAT JUST HAPPENED? WAYNETECH PARTS PROBLEM, PERHAPS? LEXCORP WIRING FAULTY?

WE...

...WE WERE A LITTLE PREMATURE WITH OUR TEST FLIGHT, PLAIN AND SIMPLE. THE BUCK STOPS HERE... LORA.

TRUTHFUL. I LIKE THAT IN A MAN.

THANK YOU, MR. JORDAN. GOOD DAY.

YOU AND ME AT THE RIB SHACK, THEN?

OH, YEAH. CAROL'S GONNA NEED A LITTLE TIME TO LET THIS ONE GO.

MAYBE I OUGHT TO BE SHOPPING AROUND A LITTLE IN THE MEANTIME. I DO SO LIKE BLONDES...

DINER

DIANE, DO YOU THINK OF ME AS A "TEAM PLAYER"?

GOD, JOHN. *WARN* ME WHEN YOU'RE GONNA *SPEAK*. I'LL ALERT THE *MEDIA*.

choc

AT LEAST *CLEAR YOUR THROAT* OR SOMETHING.

WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?

DO YOU *TRUST* ME? YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW... MUCH ABOUT MY *ORIGINS*... WHERE I COME FROM, WHAT I DO IN MY *SPARE TIME*...

YOU'RE THE MOST CURIOUS DETECTIVE ON THE *MIDDLETON FORCE*, JONES. YOU HAVE A SPOTLESS RECORD, YOU ALWAYS GET YOUR MAN...

...AND NO OTHER INVESTIGATOR HAS YET TO FIND YOUR *SENSE OF HUMOR*. WHAT MORE DO I *NEED* TO KNOW RIGHT NOW?

NEVER MIND. LOOKS AS IF *TWITCH* WAS GOOD ON HIS *TIP*.

THERE *ARE* DRUGS BEING MANUFACTURED IN THE BACK OF ANGELO'S RESTAURANT... AND *BONETTI'S* BOYS LOOK *VERY* TIRED OF ANGELO SKIMMING OFF THE *TOP*.

LET'S GET *IN* THERE BEFORE THERE'S *TROUBLE*.

HOW CAN MEN DO THIS TO ONE ANOTHER? EXPLOIT ADDICTIONS, EXCHANGE GUNFIRE...

WHAT PLANET ARE YOU FROM, JONES? ONLY THING SEPARATES US FROM THE ANIMALS IS THE "I'M WITH STUPID" T-SHIRTS.

Angelo's

YOU'VE GOT TO SHOW THESE CREEPS SOME MUSCLE, OR--

SMASH SMASH

HOLY--!

DOWN, JOHN!

CALL FOR BACKUP.

GEE, YOU THINK? IT SOUNDS LIKE THE FOURTH OF JULY IN THERE!

WANNA COVER ME WHILE I GO FOR THE RADIO?

JOHN? JOHN?

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

SPAK

CLOSING DOWN

YEEEOWW!

HOTHOTHOTTT--!

YEEAARGH!

WHAT THE--!

BLAM

WHUUUFFF!

STOP.

POLICE.

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.

YOU HEARD ME! OFFICERS MEADE AND JONES REQUESTING IMMEDIATE BACKUP ON THE CORNER OF--

--OF--

--UMMM-- DISREGARD ALERT--?

HOW'D YOU DO THAT?

I SHOWED THEM SOME MUSCLE.

CAL REDMOND, CHANNEL TWELVE NEWS! FORGET THE BUST--LOOKS LIKE YOUR PARTNER'S A STORY IN HIMSELF--

--AND WE WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT HIM! WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

ASK HIM. I'M JUST HERE TO HANDLE THE RADIO. JOHN? WANNA YAK?

I CANNOT. I HAVE PEOPLE TO MEET.

FRIENDS? THE TACITURN JOHN JONES ACTUALLY HAS PALS?

YOU MEAN THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE OUT THERE LIKE YOU?

PERHAPS.

THAT, FRANKLY, IS WHAT I AM CURIOUS TO DISCOVER...

THANK YOU FOR COMING, GENERAL EILING. AS YOU WERE BRIEFED, SEVERAL OF THE ALIEN CREATURES WE FOUGHT YESTERDAY WERE DESTROYED...

...AND APPARENTLY SUPERMAN TOOK OUT A SEVENTH, BUT THAT'S UNCONFIRMED...

...BUT TWO REMAIN INTACT, IF INERT. AT THE REQUEST OF THE AIR FORCE, WE'RE SURRENDERING THEM FOR FURTHER STUDY.

THEY'RE INSIDE THIS CAVERN AQUAMAN FOUND FOR US. LET'S GO.

...I MEAN, I'M NO WILDCAT OR SPECTRE, BUT I'VE LEARNED A FEW TRICKS...

BLONDE.

LEATHER.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE AQUAMAN, NOT CAVEMAN.

THERE'S AN INLET--

YOU'RE MUMBLING AGAIN. SPEAK UP.

THERE'S AN INLET UNDERGROUND FROM THE BAY. I'M PRETTY FAMILIAR WITH COASTAL GROTTOS.

THAT'S...REALLY THE WAY YOU LOOK...?

SOMETIMES.

HERE YOU GO. I PUT THE BEASTS UNDER THE PROTECTIVE DOME IN--

HEY!

WE APPEAR TO HAVE INTRUDERS.

THEY'RE TELEPORTING IN--

--AND TELEPORTING OUT WITH THE ALIENS!

NOT IF I--

--WE--

--WE CAN HELP IT! I'VE DROPPED THE DOME--LET'S DROP THEM--

--FAST!

NO! THIS WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN! GET THIS ONE TO BASE NOW--NOW-- BEFORE IT'S--

ΔΞΔΟ!

TOO LATE! HE'S COMBUSTING!

STAY BACK, PEOPLE! IF THE FIRE GIANT GOES UP AGAIN, WE'RE--

--IN TROUBLE!

EYYAARGH!

MANHUNTER!

AQUAMAN! DID YOU SAY THERE WAS AN INLET--?

ALREADY ON IT!

YOU WANT TO FIGHT?

FOLLOW ME!

MANHUNTER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WAS IT THE FIRE?

YES. FLAME... WEAKENS ME.

HUH? A STRONG GUY LIKE YOU CAN'T HANDLE--

--I MEAN-- SO NOTED.

SIR! REQUEST PERMISSION TO--

DON'T MOVE, SOLDIER! THE DANCE FLOOR'S CROWDED ENOUGH! MOVE AN INCH, AND WE'LL BE CUT DOWN LIKE SO MUCH WHEAT!

LIKE IT OR NOT, OUR LIVES ARE NOW IN THE HANDS--

--OF FIVE COSTUMED GRANDSTANDERS!

I'LL PROTECT YOU, CANARY! ANY THOUGHTS?

ONE, THAT I CAN HANDLE MYSELF...AND TWO, THAT THE JSA WOULD BE DONE WITH THESE LOSERS BY NOW!

ON THEIR FIRST DAY?

LEADER TO LOCUS HOMEBASE! HAVE ENCOUNTERED UNEXPECTED RESISTANCE! PREPARING TO INITIATE EXTREME MEASURES--

--NOW!

KSSSH!

OH, HELL! THEY'VE LET LOOSE THE BIRD, TOO...?

JUST WHAT WE NEED, MORE ALIENS RUNNING AROU--

:KOFF:

I--I-- MEAN--

YOU MEAN NO INSULT. GO. I WILL SHIELD THE SOLDIERS.

UH-OH.

YOU WANT A SUGGES-TION? TRY A STARMAN TRICK. HE WOULD'VE--

--DONE BETTER THAN ME. I CAN'T TAKE THE BIRD OUT.

THE RING KIND OF... HAS A PROBLEM WITH YELLOW THINGS. I'LL FIND FIRE GIANT. FLASH, CAN YOU HANDLE THIS?

MIND IF I HELP...?

?

WHERE... WHERE'D HE GO?

NOT FAR.

THE MARTIAN IS WEAK!

QUICKLY! BEFORE THE OTHERS COME TO HIS RESCUE.

--WE WILL REDUCE HIM TO MARTIAN ASH--

AND BY THE WAY...

...I RARELY REQUIRE "RESCUING."

YOU CAN GO IMMATERIAL, TOO?

IT IS A GIFT OF WILL POWER.

SO ARE THE THINGS I CAN DO WITH THE RING, BUT... WOW! I CAN'T DO THAT!

I DON'T THINK.

HEY-- ANYBODY SEEN AQUAMAN?

--AND THAT'S HOW THE OLD FLASH USED TO HANDLE THINGS THAT FLEW!

--BUT I'M WILLING TO GIVE IT A WHIRL!

LEADER TO LOCUS HOMEBASE! DO YOU READ ME?

FOR GOD'S SAKE--DO YOU READ ME?

A VORTEX, EH? NICE! I HAVEN'T TRIED IT YET MYSELF--

PAR!

PSSD!

FWOOSH!

ZYOK!

THAT'S IT... STAY MAD...

...AND COME AFTER ME!

NNNGH...

...NNNGH...

ARGH!

GOOD PLAN. CAN I HELP?

PLEASE!

ARG--!

FWOOOOM!

ISN'T THAT HEAVY?

I HAVE IT.

THIS ISN'T WORKING

WORKING!

I CAN PIN IT, BUT I CAN'T KNOCK IT OUT!

OUT!

PARDON MY ECHO!

ECHO!

PARDON IT? LET'S USE IT. CAN THAT BIRD SING?

DOESN'T SEEM TO.

TO.

SKREEEE

WELL, I CAN!

SIR, WE'VE LOST THE AVIARY!

UNACCEPTABLE! I'VE RECEIVED NEW ORDERS! IF WE CAN'T HAVE THE ALIENS--

FWUMP!

FAASH!

--THEY CAN'T, EITHER!

WANNA

--BET?

LEADER TO HOMEBASE! INITIATING FAIL-SAFE MANEUVER!

TRIANGULATE A PORTMATRIX IMMEDIATELY--

HEY!

--CENTERED ON MY SIGNAAAAALLL--

FZAAAK

DAMN IT! WHILE MY BACK WAS TURNED, HE 'PORTED AWAY-- WITH THE BIRD--AND WE MISSED HIM!

DON'T FEEL BAD. EVEN DR. FATE WOULD'VE HAD A TOUGH TIME BLOCKING THAT.

WHERE'S THE FIRE GIANT?

RIGHT HERE. WE CAN MOVE HIM INTO EILING'S TRANSPORT IF THE SOLDIERS WILL HERD THE PRISONERS.

SINCE WHEN ARE WE TAKING ORDERS FROM THEM?

THOSE FIVE PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR US. SHOW THEM THE PROPER RESPECT, SERGEANT!

I'M A LIEUTENANT, SIR.

YOU WERE. NOW... MOVE 'EM OUT!

SO... ANYONE KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THERE? THOSE GUYS... I HEARD THEM CALL THEMSELVES LOCUS...

...HOW'D THEY KNOW ABOUT THE ALIENS, OR WHERE WE HID THEM? DID ANYONE SAY ANYTHING TO ANYONE?

NOT I.

NOR I. PERHAPS THEY FOLLOWED US. PERHAPS WE SHOULD BETTER... WHAT'S THE EXPRESSION?..."WATCH OUR BACKS"?

OR... WATCH ONE ANOTHER'S BACKS. YOU HAVE TO ADMIT... WE DID MAKE A DECENT TEAM IN THERE.

MAYBE... AT LEAST UNTIL WE SETTLE THE MYSTERY OF WHAT JUST HAPPENED... MAYBE WE SHOULD STICK TOGETHER...?

YEAH.

YEAH, I THINK SO. I THINK WE CAN LEARN A LOT FROM EACH OTHER.

WELL, I'M IN IF YOU--

--THAT IS--

--I--WHAT ABOUT YOU, SMILEY?

IF SHE THINKS IT'S A GOOD IDEA, I'M--

I HAVE MY CONCERNS. I DON'T REALLY THINK OF MYSELF AS "SUPER-POWERED"... THE THINGS I CAN DO DON'T SEEM VERY UNUSUAL TO ME.

STILL, YOU'RE THE BEST PEOPLE I'VE MET. IF YOU'LL HAVE ME... I'LL STAY AROUND... FOR A WHILE.

MANHUNTER?

YOU... EACH OF YOU... HAS TREATED ME AS YOU WOULD ONE OF YOUR OWN RACE. YOU HAVE INCLUDED ME WHERE OTHERS MIGHT TURN AWAY.

I AM... GRATEFUL. I WOULD BE HONORED TO JOIN YOU.

THEN TELL ME ABOUT THIS YELLOW THING...

WAIT. YOU REALLY KNEW THE JUSTICE SOCIETY? YOU'RE NOT THAT OLD...!

...YOUR STRENGTH IS SURPRISING. I ASSUME YOUR MUSCLES HAVE BEEN TOUGHENED BY UNDERSEA PRESSURE?

...MY MOM WAS THE JSA'S CANARY... THAT'S WHY...

...IT'S AN AURA OF SOME SORT... PROTECTS ME FROM FRICTION...

...JUST THE VERY WAY GRAVITY BEHAVES UP HERE IS HARD TO GET USED TO.

I HAD MUCH THE SAME EXPERIENCE WHEN I ARRIVED...

I REPEAT... NEW HEROES WERE NOT FACTORED INTO THE LOCUS AGENDA.

THEN WE RE-FACTOR. I REFUSE TO ALLOW TEN YEARS OF GENETIC PLANNING BE DESTROYED BY EVEN ONE MINUTE OF INTERFERENCE.

BESIDES... WE HAVE AN ADVANTAGE. THEY DON'T KNOW US... BUT NOW THAT WE HAVE PUT OUR FIELD AGENTS INTO PLAY, WE ARE ABOUT TO KNOW THEM...

...INTIMATELY.

CONTINUED...